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Message Text

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46
ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 SPC-03 AID-20

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 CIAE-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

LAB-06 SIL-01 H-03 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 NEA-10

FAA-00 DOTE-00 CAB-09 DRC-01 /186 W
---------- 024177
R 032145Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE 3468
USDOC WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS KINGSTON 4099

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, JM
SUBJECT: PETROLEUM: FUEL SHORTAGE HAS LIMITED EFFECT

1. ALTHOUGH THE FUEL SHORTAGE HAS HAD MINIMAL EFFECT ON JAMAICA TO DATE, THE GOJ HAS FORMED A TASK FORCE TO MONITOR THE SITUATION HEADED BY MINISTER OF MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES, ALLAN ISAACS. CONSERVATION MEASURES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED BY MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, AND TOURISM PJ PATTERSON, WHICH INCLUDE EXPORT LICENSING OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, A FUEL CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN, AND A COORDINATED ACTION PROGRAM WITH THE THREE OIL COMPANIES -SHELL, TEXACO, AND ESSO - ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION. THE MAIN IMPACT THUS FAR IS A PRICE INCREASE WHICH, ACCORDING TO MIN. PATTERSON, WILL COST AN ADDITIONAL J$25 MILLION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE (CURRENT ANNUAL EXPENDITURE IS J$15 MILLION) IF CONSUMPTION IS MAINTAINED
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AT PRESENT LEVELS. THE GOJ IS ALSO SEEKING COMMITMENTS

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FROM ITS MAIN SUPPLIERS, VENEZUELA, NETHERLAND ANTILLES, AND TRINIDAD: SINCE THE OIL COMPANIES HAVE ASSURED THE GOJ NORMAL OPERATIONS CAN BE MAINTAINED AS LONG AS THE LOCAL REFINERY RECEIVES ITS REGULAR SUPPLIES FROM VENEZUELA (APPROX. 1.4 MILLION TONS). ALTHOUGH THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR AHS ASSURED THE GOJ THAT VENEZUELA WILL MEET ITS COMMITMENTS, IT IS UNLIKELY COMPARABLE REASSURANCES WILL BE RECEIVED FROM THE OTHER SUPPLIERS. AS A RESULT, SOME CUTBACK IN THE LOCAL REFINERY'S PRODUCTION COULD OCCUR IF SUPPLIES OF IMPORTED BLENDING AGENTS ARE CURTAILED.

2. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE LOCAL PUBLICITY ON THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON TOURISM, TWO CRUISE SHIPS HAVE DROPPED MONTEGO BAY FROM THEIR SCHEDULES FOR FUEL CONSERVATION REASONS. SIMILAR CUTBACKS IN AIRLINE SCHEDULES COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON TOURISM WITH MULTIPLIER EFFECT ON THE REST OF THE ECONOMY. BERKLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FUEL OIL, TOURISM, CONSERVATION, PETROLEUM RESERVES, RESERVE SHORTAGE, EXPORT LICENSES, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINGST04099
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731250/aaaabkjl.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Oct-2001 by williadt>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PETROLEUM: FUEL SHORTAGE HAS LIMITED EFFECT
TAGS: ENRG, JM, (ISAACS, ALLAN), (PATTERSON P J)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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